



Minutes

Bicycle & Trails Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 8, 2003

PRESENT: Cheu, Hauge, Clark, Eltgroth, McCann
Hubbell arrived late

ABSENT: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mark Frederick

STAFF: Public Works Senior Engineer Julie Behzad
Administrative Secretary Karen Nelson

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chairperson Cheu called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

DECLARATION - POSTING OF AGENDA: Julie Behzad certified that this meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Julie Behzad opened the meeting to public comments. There being no comments, the public comments period was closed.

MINUTES: By unanimous vote, the minutes for the March 13, 2003 and April 10, 2003 meetings were approved as amended.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. Staff Report

Status of the Bicycle Ordinance

On April 15, 2003, PRC talked about the Bicycle Ordinance based on input from the City Council. There were verbiage changes but no major changes.

*** Fiscal Year 2002/03 Safe Routes to School Program (SR25)**

David Gittleson from Public Works attended this meeting – he is working on all of the Public Works grants. He handed out two maps because we actually have two grant applications we are going to apply for, due at the end of May. Tennant Creek Trail Ph I, through the Santa Clara Valley Water

District (SCVWD) Grants, Trails, and Open Space Program, there is \$9,000 available per year. In the Bikeways Master Plan (BMP), on page 22, the Hill Road Trail project shows Tennant Trail is owned by SCVWD, they will allow us to pave the road, but there is still right-of-way to be obtained, across the street from the ponds. The ponds aren't shown in the BMP west of Hill Road. NOTE: THIS NEEDS TO BE UPDATED IN THE BIKEWAYS MASTER PLAN WHEN IT IS UPDATED. This will cost \$37,000 and the City would need an additional \$9,000 to fund these improvements. We need BTAC's support when the grant/project is taken to Council on May 21, 2003. Mr. Bjarke said we may not even need to go to Council on this one; we just wanted to let the committee know what we are doing. This is a pretty easy application as far as grant programs go.

On page 14 in the BMP, SRTS Program, this application is different because others have asked for Class I pathway from Live Oak to Condit. After looking at the right-of-way, structures and future of the road, Mr. Gittleson came to the conclusion that we need to widen the road and build Class II bike lane. A Class I pathway put in now would be taken out later and converted to curb & gutter. Following the BMP, it shows the two sections we want to widen; we will extend the shoulder 6' and stripe a bike lane on the north side of Main. There is a bike lane on the south side already, it narrows due to right-of-way. Mr. Eltgroth asked if this is more realistic than the last grant and Mr. Gittleson responded that it is and will cost less money because we don't have to relocate the telephone poles. Mr. Bjarke noted that traffic impact fees would pay for the improvements since we are essentially widening the road. We hired Randall Development to write the grant to get a better chance of it being granted. They are experienced in this area. Mr. Gittleson was asked to give Randall Development the websites noted in the last minutes. Mr. Eltgroth said he'd like to see Main Avenue at El Toro be the next area as it needs a bike lane. Mr. Hubbell noted the program has gotten lots of press for improving mostly routes to elementary schools, and it seems like the grants are being given to those types of programs. Mr. Hauge asked if they take into consideration that this is a high school, and noted that a picture of the situation included with the grant might be influential and asked if this has been considered? Mr. Gittleson said he always includes photos, and the grant didn't have them last time.

2. Bicycle Resource Directory

Ms. Behzad noted she told Rosemary Rideout that Beth Gardner was waiting for Rosemary to get back to her. Beth did not make contact with Rosemary, and Beth will get with her later.

3. Bike to Work Day / Bike to Work Week

Ms. Behzad has the license from VTA. Beth Gardner applied for sponsorships, and we received one that gives us \$30 worth of supplies: fruit bars, etc. Nob Hill will donate \$15 worth of supplies. Ms. Gardner will get the 20' banner, "CITY OF MORGAN HILL BIKE TO WORK DAY ENERGIZER STATION" from Mark Rauscher in Public Works. She doesn't have a way to hang it, and Ms. Behzad will check with Mark to see if we have any stanchions; Mr. Eltgroth thought Specialized Bikes had loaned us some stanchions in the past. Ms. Gardner got 35 bags from VTA, including Bullfrog Sunblock, a case of Red Bull, and about 20 power bars. She delivered about 20 posters.

Alan Clark has water bottles from Specialized and Ms. Gardner will pick them up. The Morgan Hill Times has been noticed. Hours of operation will be 6:30 am to 8:30 am. Set up will be in the NE quadrant of the parking lot. Mr. McCann & Mr. Eltgroth will also be there. Mr. Eltgroth will take leftovers to the Gavilan area. Ms. Behzad showed the Bike to Work Week Proclamation made by Council on May 7, 2003. Ms. Gardner will write up procedures for next year.

4. Countywide Bicycle Advisory Committee Update

- Comprehensive County Expressway's Planning Study-draft implementation plan – see www.expressways.info – open house on Monday 5/12/03, deadline for comment is 5/14/03 – “delineate, not designate”, they stripe but not sign. Mr. Eltgroth passed out a flyer. He is still writing some comments, they don't want to encourage people that aren't experts.
- VTA is supporting extending Uvas Creek Trail.

BUSINESS

1. Morgan Hill's Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Bicycle Friendly Community Organization sent an e-mail to Ms. Behzad, they accepted our Part 1 of the application and they want us to submit part 2. Ms. Behzad asked if committee wants to pursue because Part 2 is pretty involved. Mr. Hubbell gave a copy of the application to Mr. Hauge. This is not a time sensitive application. Some of the numbers will have to come from Public Works (percentage of roads striped for bike lanes). Mr. Hauge will take it and fill in what he can and he'll bring it back to the committee. This will be left on the agenda as a business item for discussion at each meeting. Mr. Clark asked what the benefit is of being designated as a bicycle friendly community; answers given were: includes tourism, improving local community, makes the Chamber happy, and we get a sign. It was noted that there is a website that tells what is in it for us - www.bikeleague.org.

2. Officer Rod Krewson from the MHPD attended. Mr. Eltgroth noted the PRC changed some verbiage in the bicycle ordinance, but no major changes were made. Officer Krewson reported that Sergeant Terrie Booten approved the changes, and that she thought motorized scooters and helmets weren't addressed in the ordinance. Helmet law states that anyone under 18 has to wear a helmet. Statistics show 75% more kids will wear helmets if parents wear helmets. The MHPD has a bicycle safety program to help promote awareness. They can issue \$28 ticket if a helmet isn't worn, per the Vehicle Code. Motorized scooters require a license and that a helmet is worn. Our City laws can strengthen State Law but cannot supercede the State Laws. Bicycles are considered vehicles because Section 21200 says bikes have to obey all traffic laws. The Bicycle Safety Program responsibility was given to the traffic officers, but the PD doesn't have any traffic officers at the moment so no program is currently in effect. The bicycle rodeo is operated by a private group; they do safety checks, as well as instruction. The PD has given out up to 300 bike helmets for free, and attendance has increased each year. The obstacle course, including turning radius, to designed to make kids aware of how they operate their bikes, and is a part of the program if it exists. The target of the program is for both kids and adults. Mr. Eltgroth asked how we get the PD into a

program. Officer Krewson suggested contacting Sergeant Booten for approval. Officer Cupps used to put on a rodeo about once a month. It takes at least 2 officers to run the rodeo, usually on Saturdays. They used half of asphalt area at El Toro to have enough room. It's a challenging course for the younger kids. Mr. Eltgroth noted the BMP calls for an education program for both kids and adults and asked what can this committee do to start the program up? Officer Krewson expressed the need for funding. Getting coupons for freebies (pizza, etc...) for officers to give to people wearing helmets influences them to wear helmets more frequently. He suggested the use of peer pressure to influence more people to wear helmets works well. The day shift would have to do most of the patrol and distribution of incentives and the neighborhood watch officer could go out. A notice on Channel 17 encouraging more helmet usage would also be good. The Safe Kids program allowed Officer Krewson to get helmets for \$7 each to give away. Because of the shortage of available personnel to run this program, maximum benefit with the least amount of police effort will help the program succeed. Will calls to parents be made by the Police Department or this committee? He noted that a segway has an engine, and the Police Department hasn't heard from the CHP as to the law, go-peds are motorized and require a license. There are different ratings for helmets from bikes to skateboards. There are some helmets that can be worn in both places. Mr. Eltgroth noted the ordinance downtown that disallows bikes and skateboards, currently states no one over 13 can ride on the sidewalk, which mainly targets bikes on the sidewalks. He indicated that a legal definition for coasters couldn't be found so it was decided to leave it out of the ordinance. Some segways go 15 mph which makes them too fast for sidewalks. Mr. Eltgroth asked that the fine be lowered to encourage the Police Department to issue more tickets, but Officer Krewson said the amount of the fine doesn't matter to him in terms of the number of tickets he writes. The amount of the fine should be set to influence the parents and children to effect positive change. Mr. Eltgroth asked, how does the Police Department handle the running of stop signs or other infractions? Officer Krewson responded that the Police Department would rather educate than penalize and they usually stop the person and talk to them about what could happen to them because of their actions and that ticketing will happen if they don't change their ways. He also noted there have been problems lately with Specialized riders.

Enforcement of laws downtown – these are only enforced if the Police Department gets complaints or if there is an obvious hazard. A wrong-way cyclist will only be ticketed if they are involved in an accident or other incident. Mr. Eltgroth said he gets lots of complaints about wrong-way cyclists in the downtown. If the Police Department is given specific times and places about wrong-way cyclists, they can do some targeted enforcement.

DMV Sections 21200A down to 21212A, pertain to laws for bikes and helmets and everything in between. Section 21220.5 of the Vehicle Code deals with motorized scooters. Officer Krewson suggested we contact the Traffic Safe Communities Network – they have a program in Cupertino for their community that works well. Officers Cupps & Brookman did the other rodeos in Morgan Hill and have the information to follow for future rodeos. Funding for traffic officers originally came from a State Grant, but that funding is no longer in effect. Passing off paperwork to contact juveniles would help with the manpower shortage, which would help to make future rodeos happen. Involving the CSOs would also be

beneficial; they could do the bike checks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Still have 1 vacancy

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

(This is the opportunity for any committee member to have an item placed on a future agenda.)

- Police Department concerns regarding motorized scooters, helmets, and segways as they relate to the proposed bicycle ordinance changes- This item will be included in the item to be reviewed by PRC.
- Bicycle Safety Plan – Police Department Attendance at BTAC meetings
- Safe Routes to School Presentation
- Bikeways Master Plan – Review in June to familiarize new members with the Plan.
- Bikeways Master Plan – Quarterly reviews starting in June to ensure planned items are moving ahead
- Bicycle Education – Vote on purchase of tapes in Spanish for Channel 19 (approximate cost: \$50)
- Discuss bike safety plan including bike rodeo and police involvement

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. The next meeting will be held on June 19, 2003 at 6:15pm.